

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 17-20 were withdrawn. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 3, 5, 17, 18, 19, and 20 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-16 are currently pending.

Claims 1, 12, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fukushima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,120,290). Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 5, which was allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 12, 13, and 14 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 1, 12, 13, and 14 be allowed.

Dependent claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima et al. in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0019258). As discussed above, claim 1 (from which claim 2 depends) has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 5, which was allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claim 2 be allowed.

Dependent claims 3, 6, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima et al. in view of Hedrick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,662, 535). Claim 3 has been canceled. With respect to claims 6 and 15, as discussed above, claim 1 (from which claims 6 and 15 ultimately depend) has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 5, which was allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 6 and 15 be allowed.

Dependent claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima et al. in view of Hedrick et al., further in view of Naoi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,459,793). As discussed above, claim 1 (from which claim 4 depends) has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 5, which was allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claim 4 be allowed.

Dependent claims 9, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima et al. in view of Duret et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,143,086). As

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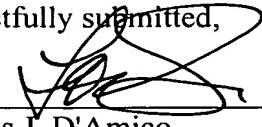
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discussed above, claim 1 (from which claims 9, 10, and 11 ultimately depend) has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 5, which was allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 9, 10, and 11 be allowed.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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